

Where Are the Jobs?



One of the most challenging tasks facing job seekers is identifying which occupational fields are expanding and which are shrinking. Even though the U.S. Department of Labor yearly publishes a projection of job growth for the next 10 years, the economic decline of 2008 makes most of these predictions unreliable. The information given in this Guide about projected occupational growth is current only to the date of writing. The job seeker needs to confirm this information with their local One-Stop Career Center. The Center can provide up-to-date data on job openings, projected growth and average salaries for your location.

Recession-proof jobs

A recession occurs when there is little or no growth in the economy over a period of time. When there is no growth or even negative growth, the income of a business no longer can support the expenses of the business. Businesses usually respond to a downturn in their income by reducing their expenses, which often means that employees are laid off.

There are certain businesses that tend to be immune to a recession. These business typically provide goods and services that people want and need regardless of the economy. The following are business sectors that are generally recession proof:

- **Education** Teaching has historically been a recession-proof profession. Even though funding for public education may decrease, school systems are mandated to provide instruction. There are more teaching positions available in high population growth areas like the Sun Belt than there are in areas where the population is declining.
- **Energy** There are both economic and political pressures to find new and renewable energy sources. There is tremendous projected growth in jobs in all sectors of the energy field including oil, gas, coal, alternative energy and nuclear.
- **Health Care** Almost one half of the fastest growing job areas are related to health services. These include medical assistants, physical therapists, home health aides, physician assistants, nurses and medical support personnel.
- **International Business** More and more businesses find that a large portion of their business is outside of the United States. These businesses seek employees who are knowledgeable of other cultures, speak a second language and who are able to travel and live abroad. Employees who are also willing to travel and live in countries where security is an issue are in especially high demand.
- **Environment** Experts predict that there will be substantial growth in all fields related to the environment. These occupations will especially include those that make the environment “greener.” Carpenters, solar engineers, home heating and air conditioning technicians, automotive repair people and building material salespeople are career fields that are likely to continue to grow.
- **Security** Unfortunately, crime does not decrease during a recession. All levels of public safety workers are in high demand and the field will continue to grow. These include local, state and federal police officers, airport security, port authority personnel and border patrol officers.



Ten fastest growing jobs for high school graduates

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, these are the 10 fastest growing jobs for people with a high school diploma or GED. Most of these jobs require some experience in the field and/or on-the-job training.



- Home Health Aide
- Physical Therapist Aide
- Medical Assistant
- Self-enrichment Teacher
- Pharmacy Technician
- Occupational Therapist Aide
- Home Care Aide
- Dental Assistant
- Compliance Officer
- Medical Secretary

High school graduates can also work as:

- Cashiers/ Retail Sales
- Chef, Cook and Food Preparation Worker
- Cosmetology/Barber
- Restaurant Waitperson
- Nurse Aide
- Child Care Worker



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Top regions for jobs

According to Money Magazine (www.money.com) the following areas tend to be recession proof. An area is generally recession proof when there is a diversity of employers (the area is not dominated by a single employer or industry) and the employers are predominately recession-proof, such as government agencies and health care providers.

- Albany, NY
- Austin, TX
- Buffalo, NY
- Dallas, TX
- El Paso, TX
- Houston, TX
- Kansas City, KS
- Madison, WI
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Rochester, NY
- Washington, DC
- Augusta, GA
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Columbia, SC
- Des Moines, IA
- Honolulu, HI
- Jackson, MS
- Little Rock, AR
- McAllen, TX
- Omaha, NB
- San Antonio, TX

Top 10 cities with low unemployment

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the following cities had the lowest unemployment rates (December 2010):

- Bismark, ND
- Fargo, ND
- Lincoln, NB
- Grand Forks, ND
- Iowa City, IA
- Ames, IA
- Sioux Falls, SD
- Omaha, NB
- Rapid City, SD
- Burlington, VT

Top 10 skilled trades

Although new construction trades have been especially affected by the economic downturn of 2008, many skilled trades continue to show growth. Construction trades that have shifted their focus from new construction to renovations and repair work will continue to be in demand during the recession.

- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair
- Refrigeration technician
- Controls technicians
- Project engineer
- Welder
- Electrician
- Outside building materials sales
- Plumber
- Heating and air conditioning installer
- Electrical estimator

Top part-time jobs

It is often necessary for an unemployed person to take a part-time (less than 40 hours per week) job while they continue their hunt for a full-time position. Working mothers, retired men and women and people pursuing avocations (like photography or painting) are usually interested in only part-time employment. Here are the top 10 (according to the Department of Labor) part-time positions:

- Retail Salesperson/ Cashier
- Physical Fitness Trainer
- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Receptionist
- Physical Therapist Aide
- Product Demonstrator
- Library Assistant
- Child Care Worker
- Home Care Aide

Some web sites for locating part time and seasonal employment

www.careerbuilder.com
www.craigslist.org
www.monster.com

www.coolworks.com
www.indeed.com
www.seasonalemployment.com/

Top 10 summer jobs

Whether you are a student looking for summer employment, a teacher on summer break or a retiree, you can take advantage of employment opportunities that exist only in the summer months. These jobs center around tourism, landscaping and filling-in for vacationing employees.



- Child Care Workers
- Lifeguards
- Amusement Park Attendants
- Camp Workers
- Restaurant Servers
- Office Assistants
- Home Improvement Workers
- Retail Sales Associates
- Hotel and Resort Staff
- Landscapers

Internet resources



www.employmentspot.com/employment-articles/fastest-growing-fields/-- Good resource for employment outlook information.

www.careerbuilder.com/Article/CB-2000-Part-Time-Top-Jobs-for-Working-Moms/ -- Information for working mothers.

www.jobsearch.about.com/od/ptjoblistings/tp/ptjobs.htm -- Lists web sites that focus on part-time jobs.